

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127656
ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 HA-05
L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 HEW-04 EB-08 SSO-00 INRE-00 /084 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DBARCHARD:DE
APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:JACoon
EA/TIMBS:ROAKLEY (SUBSTANCE)
AID/OFDA:RCLEARY (DRAFT)
AID/ASIA/BIS:JGAYOSO (SUBSTANCE)
HA/ORM:GMETSON (DRAFT)
-----047499 192045Z /73

O R 192006Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SREF, BG, BM

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS FLEEING BURMA
REF: DACCA 3180, 3204

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF CONCERNED BUREAUS IN STATE AND AID
MET MAY 17 TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS
FLEEING FROM BURMA TO BANGLADESH, IN ANTICIPATION OF A
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LIKELY REQUEST THROUGH A UN AGENCY. GROUP WAS GENERALLY
AGREED THAT IF A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IS RECEIVED, WE
WISH TO BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE AND THAT WE WOULD
WANT TO ACT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RATHER THAN
BILATERALLY. AS OF MAY 19, THOUGH, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED
ANY REQUESTS FROM THE BDG OR THE UN.

2. ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE ISSUE IS THAT OF THE SOURCE OF DOLLAR FUND ASSISTANCE, I.E. WHETHER AID/OFDA OR STATE/ORM FUND ASSISTANCE IS UTILIZED. OFDA FUNDS ARE USED TO MEET DISPLACED PERSONS NEEDS AND ORM FUNDS UTILIZED TO MEET REFUGEE NEEDS. IF OFDA FUNDS ARE USED, THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY, BUT ONLY FOR THE CRISIS STAGE. ORM FUNDS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE IN SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS BEFORE SEPTEMBER.

3. NORMALLY, A DISPLACED PERSON IS ONE AFFECTED BY A

DISASTER WHO REMAINS WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE DISASTER AFFECTED COUNTRY; A REFUGEE IS A PERSON WHO HAS LEFT HIS COUNTRY OWING TO WELL-FOUNDED FEAR OF BEING PERSECUTED FOR REASONS OF RACE, RELIGION, NATIONALITY. OBVIOUSLY, THE PRESENT SITUATION DOES NOT FALL NEATLY INTO EITHER OF THESE CATAGORIES. SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD APPEAR TO BE REFUGEES COULD IN FACT BE CONSIDERED DISPLACED PERSONS WHO ARE RETURNING TO THEIR HOMELAND. IF WE ARE TO PROVIDE NON-FOOD AID ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO CROSSED INTO BANGLADESH, WE BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO CONSULT WITH THE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN ORDER TO USE DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND/OR REFUGEE AND MIGRATION ASSISTANCE FUNDS. BEFORE SUCH CONSULTATIONS, WE WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE, TO REACH A CONCLUSION ON THE NATIONALITY AND STATUS QUESTION I.E. WHETHER THEY ARE DISPLACED PERSONS WHOSE ROOTS ARE IN BANGLADESH OR REFUGEES FROM BURMA.

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SONS WHOSE ROOTS ARE IN BANGLADESH OR REFUGEES FROM BURMA. FYI - FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE UNDER PL 480, WE DO NOT HAVE THE DEFINITIONAL LEGAL PROBLEM SINCE PL 480 TITLE II IS AVAILABLE TO BOTH REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS.

4. BASED ON WHAT WE NOW KNOW, IT APPEARS THAT A MIX OF DISPLACED PERSONS AND REFUGEES ARE INVOLVED. AN EXACT DIVISION MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ASCERTAIN. IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THAT WHILE THE COMMISSIONER IN CHITTAGONG HAS ASSERTED THAT 60 OF THESE PEOPLE POSSESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES, THE BURMESE CLAIM THAT THE INCIDENT OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS IS VERY HIGH. NONETHELESS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR BEST JUDGEMENT AS TO THE PROPORTIONS OF EACH. FYI THIS NEED NOT REFLECT BANGLADESHI OR BURMESE GOVERNMENT VIEWS, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT OUR DETERMINATION BASED ON YOUR REPORTS WILL BECOME AVAILABLE TO THE HILL AND THEREFORE COULD BECOME PUBLIC. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM BOTH DACCA AND RANGOON ASAP.

5. IN ADDITION, WE NEED ANSWERS FROM DACCA TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: (A) WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE QUANTUM OF FOREIGN AID FROM ALL SOURCES WHICH WILL PROBABLY

BE REQUIRED OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS? (B) WHAT KINDS OF
ASSISTANCE WOULD BE MOST USEFUL: FOOD, MEDICAL SUPPLIES,
CASH, ETC.? VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 127656
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 /018 R

66011

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:MMEASTON
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS - REFRITTS
HA-GMETSON (SUBS)

-----003837 271452Z /50

R 270245Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127656

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 127656 ACTION RANGOON DACCA INFO CALCUTTA
COLOMBO ISLAMABAD GENEVA KATHMANDU NEW DELHI ROME RANGOO MAY 19.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SREF, BG, BM

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780539/aaaabgsq.tel
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SAS ID: 2632640
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PEPR, SREF, BG, BM
To: RANGOON DACCA
Type: TE
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